



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 619 without my signature.

This bill would allow an electric investor-owned utility (IOU) that applies to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a certificate or a permit authorizing the new construction of any electrical transmission project to separately apply to the California Energy Commission (CEC) for environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Building out the electric transmission system is critical for delivering clean electricity to customers from our growing portfolio of zero-carbon resources. While I share the author's goal to improve electric transmission permitting to expedite needed project development, decentralizing permitting between two agencies creates new coordination challenges, requires duplicative staffing, disrupts the sequencing of permitting workstreams and impedes the ability of either agency to consider the full scope of an electric transmission project. Ensuring that a single agency can account for and mitigate both significant costs to electric ratepayers and environmental impacts can lead to better results for Californians.

I welcome further partnership with the Legislature to develop targeted policies that would accelerate the development of needed electric infrastructure. Last year and this year, I signed a number of bills that advance our electric infrastructure needs, helping us progress towards our decarbonization goals. We should build on these efforts thoughtfully. To that end, I'm directing my Administration to work through the infrastructure Strike Team established by Executive Order N-8-23 to do just this.



For these reasons I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and extends horizontally across the page.